

Informant:	LMP-S2	Spanish
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C: Do you want to continue with the story about the girl?

S2: When we were in church she started to get into a trance but she couldn't speak. I saw that her condition was not normal.

C: That it wasn't a trance?

S2: No, that her condition was not normal.

C: Oh.

S2: You know, in other words that I saw that what was coming down was not normal. I then began to cleanse her. There are some things that I see that I do not like talking about in public because when you go to church, you have to listen, watch, and be quiet. Don't get offended. What someone sees has to stay within the group of people that also saw it because many confidences will be uncovered. There are some things you don't want the public to know about. These things are private. When we were finished, I called her and asked her if she wanted to talk to me in private because what was tormenting her was not good. I began to talk to her and she told me that her stepfather would abuse her. I told her that the spirit possessed her because she was permitting it. I told her she had to gain strength to throw out the rotten soul. So then she came like three more times. The third time she came with a friend and she seemed a little more relaxed because we were helping her get rid of the animal that was inside of her. I call the bad spirits animals. To me, they're nothing more than animals. When I began clean her with the herbs and holy water, she would act like if she were burning. She would twist and turn. When I saw how she was moving, I got scared. I said, "Oh my God, this animal is present." I put the cross and put it in her hand because it's to dominate. So we began to clean her and pray for her. She would twist and grind her teeth. I couldn't hold her hands. We began to pray to God. The girl got very scared and she didn't want to come back. Her friend didn't want to return either, because she got scared and started crying.

C: She never returned?

HC: These are things that happen. When you see these things, of course you're going to get scared because you are not used to see that. You can't believe it. In another occasion, a young man from Guatemala had a mix of schizophrenia and paranoia. Everything was mixed. He saw when his brother was murdered. There were many traumatic experiences. When all that happens, there is a lot of spiritual confusion, psychological confusion, and physical. It's all mixed. When we begin the reunion, I like for people to close their eyes when I pray so they can concentrate better. I noticed that he could not close his eyes and they looked like the devil. He could not control himself. When it was out turn to clean him, I put a Chinese sword. I would tell him to close his eyes and he said he couldn't. When I got the sword, without touching him, I began to

make a cross and then he began to twist his eyes and grind his teeth. It was a terrible thing. You thought his teeth were going to vanish. I said, "In the name of the lord" and he began...

C: And he didn't know he had this?

S2: Yes, he knew. That's why they brought him. He knew he wasn't all right. He began to twist like if he was going to fight. He turned very aggressive and his sister started crying. I was very scared to be honest. So then I got his head in order to dominate him. I began to pray the 23rd psalm.

C: What is the 23rd psalm?

HC: It's one of the strongest psalms in the Bible. It says that you don't fear anything and nothing can harm you. Nothing can happen to you. So then I start praying it to him. So, how can I fear something else if God is with me? I use that psalm to dominate because nothing can hurt me if one has faith. He didn't want to come back.

C: And you couldn't get rid of the soul?

HC: It goes by sections and he would read a lot of books about witchcraft. All that would give the spirit strength. It's like the ouiji. I went to a Christina show in 1990 where I talked about the ouiji. A psychologist, Anita Cassandra, agreed with what I said about the ouiji. It's not a game. You are inviting, opening. The spirit is waiting for any opportunity so you can open the door and let it in. It can be in your house, in your body.

C: For example, when the girls went to church and they had that experience, when you told that girl or when you began to show her or began to help her with overcoming the spirit, did she have to do some sort of ritual? Remember you told me that the wormwood (ajenjo) is used when the person is being trained? Would she have to do something like that?

S2: Yes, do something like that.

C: Do you recommend that?

S2: Yes, I recommend certain things they have to do.

C: If I may ask, what is the process she would have to go through or has begun?

S2: The first thing is to assist the reunions. When the person begins to take everything seriously, when you come to the reunion you get cleansed. They prepare a fountain of water. That fountain can either have florida water, white flowers. When people begin this, they are told they have to be cleansed and stripped. Then you are told what you have to do. You can be sent to different places. You are told to cleanse yourself in the park, in the forest, the mountains, the ocean, the river, or your home.

C: In that process, does the person have to go by him or herself?

S2: No, you are going to be prepared. Sometimes you are given what you will be drinking.

C: Like wormwood (ajenjo) tea?

S2: Yes, or they'll tell you to drink this for nine days and you can't drink coffee or this and you can't eat meat. There are different forms because the spirit itself will show you how to do it.

C: So, why would they tell you that you couldn't eat meat?

S2: You need to clean your system so you will have better spirituality. You can have a better concentration because I knew a friend who would not eat all day in order to work. In the morning he would eat at least a piece of toast with his coffee. He would not drink water all day or eat. He would only drink orange juice at around two or three in the afternoon.

C: Was it to have a better concentration?

S2: He could fall asleep or he could fall down. He would fast everyday.

C: Did you meet him here or in Mexico?

S2: Here.

C: How long were you in Tucilaje with him?

S2: I met him in 1978 but I didn't take his spirituality seriously until about 1983 or 84. He would mix all sorts of things. Then I went to him and commented that I read cards and made cigars, and dolls. It was a mix. I mixed voodoo and spiritualism. But that's the process of being a spiritualist. You have to learn everything starting at the bottom. He then told me that he wanted me to give him a consultation. He also told me that it was time for me to decide what I was going to do with my life. What path I was going to take. I had to make up my mind if I was going to worship God or Satan. I would either go on with my life the way I was going or I would dedicate myself to the spiritual only. I could not confuse one thing or the other or mix them. I would do one thing or the other. I would choose the bad and the good together or I would dedicate myself to one thing. What did I like the most? Spirituality. So I had to decide what I had to do with my life. That is when you find the person that opens up the path and guides you. They help you. Lately, I hear about the coronations and they crown you as a spiritualist and other things. I have developed on my own.

C: Your friend was simply a guide?

S2: Yes, like a guide. Ever since I was a child, I was drawn to the mystical and the spiritual. It's like a lamb that gets lost and goes to look for his mother. So we look around until we find the person that will help you and will guide you at that moment.

C: Some time ago you mentioned that you knew Jose. Are you friends or do you exchange recipes?

S2: No, it's diplomatic. We both have a store so if one client comes to the store and doesn't find what he wants, I'll tell him to go to Jose's store.

C: And to continue with the saints, and the person who was your guide, what can you say about Saint Simon?

S2: Little is known about Saint Simon.

C: OK. So what little can you say about Saint Simon?

S2: There isn't much written about him. I don't know what you want to know.

C: But many people here in this area believe a lot in Saint Simon.

S2: He has many Latino followers.

C: Okay. Do you know about the offerings people make?

S2: They put hard tortillas, water, alcohol, candles, and tobacco.

C: Is there a candle that is used the most?

S2: It works by colors. Red is for love, black is for enemies, blue is for justice, yellow for money, green for money.

C: And purple?

S2: For court and things like that.

C: Do you know about Saint Lazarus?

S2: A little bit because it doesn't exist in the Catholic faith. It doesn't exist. The Africans used the same saints as the Whites. There was once this rich man and a man named Lazaro. He would wait by the door and watch the enormous banquets waiting to see if something fell from the table and he would go pick it up. The dogs would lick the sores on his body. So when Lazarus died, he went to heaven and when the rich man died, he went to hell. It's a parable that says, "Father Abraham permit Lazaro to wet his lips with the tip of his finger."

C: But what is that trying to say?

S2: But Jesus says Lazarus in life with all his sufferings.

C: For being good, he went to heaven and the rich one was bad so he went to hell. And do you know what is offered to Saint Lazarus?

S2: Corn, different fruits, rice.

C: Are there many people who believe in Saint Lazarus?

S2: Many people.

C: For what reasons?

S2: For curing.